

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

SOVIET MILITARY FORCES IN CUBA

viet troops deployed to the island. Figures cited below reflect known tables of organization with the USSR, and are probably higher than the actual figures for Cuba.

There are four Soviet armored combat groups in Cuba, each of which could have between 1,500 and 2,500 men, depending on its composition. They are located in camps near Artemisa, Santiago de las Vegas, Remedios, and Holguin (see map with preceding article). Each group has highly mobile composite forces equipped with some of the most modern Soviet weapons--types which have not been released to non-Soviet units anywhere. The group at Santiago de las Vegas was displaying an "elite" unit badge, as reported cables, and the Red Army 3,000 at the end of October.

There have been differences in the types and quantities of equipment photographed at the locations of the four groups. Each group includes one medium (T-54) tank battalion and some of the following units: armored reconnaissance, armored infantry, multiple rocket launcher, Prox artillery rocket launcher, anti-aircraft missile, 120-mm mortar, 82-mm mortar, and engineer troops with amphibious bridging equipment.

Other Soviet military units remain in Cuba. Available intelligence on personnel and equipment is not very definitive except for the fact that the Soviet military is displaying an interest in the Cuban air force.

The first three groups are located near the coast of Cuba.

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and is capable of ranges between 11 and 26 nautical miles. It can carry conventional or nuclear warheads. It is not known if the Frog units in Cuba have been provided with nuclear warheads.

The 24 surface-to-air missile sites are manned and supported by an estimated 6,000 Soviet air defense troops. In addition, there are an unknown number of Soviet troops manning other elements of the island's air defense system--radar, communications, filter centers, and fighter interceptor units which include MIG-21 (Fishbed) jets.

There is no indication that Cuban personnel have control of the IL-28 (Beagle) jet light bombers being assembled on the island. It is assumed therefore that some additional Soviet military personnel are involved in this program.

The status of the coastal defense cruise missile installations is not known, but, they too are probably manned by Soviet personnel. Four and possibly five of these installations have been located in Cuba.

The number and location of these facilities are unknown, but they would probably be manned by military personnel.

All of these forces are probably in addition to Soviet military personnel assisting and training Cubans in a military aid capacity; i.e., for naval ships, aircraft, and land armaments being turned over to Cuba by the USSR.

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There have been differences in the types and quantities of equipment photographed at the locations of the four groups. Each group includes one medium (T-54) tank battalion and some of the following units: armored reconnaissance, armored infantry, multiple rocket launcher, Frog artillery rocket, Snapper antitank missile, 120-mm. mortar, 57-mm antitank gun, and engineer troops with self-propelled bridging equipment.

Other Soviet military units remain in Cuba. Available intelligence on personnel arriving by ship has not been definitive enough to assist in developing an estimate of the number of So-

The Frog (free rocket over ground) rocket is mounted on an amphibious tracked chassis

Info sources

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Received on 10/1/62

PT 5009

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